

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd July 1904.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Muzaffari* newspaper of Persia is sorry, says the *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 11th July, that almost all vacancies in the medical service of Persia are being filled by the Feringhi doctors brought from India. Among the natives of Persia there is a large number of doctors, who, having completed their medical studies in Europe, have returned to their native land. But the Government takes no notice of them, and requisitions its medical officers, through the British Consul, from India. It would be better if it requisitioned the services of Zoroastrian doctors, who are numerous in the Bombay Presidency.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS  
HABLUL MATEEN,  
July 11th, 1904.

2. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th July refers to the correspondence which has recently passed between the British Colonial Secretary and the Transvaal Legislative Council on the subject of granting licenses to Asiatics for trading in the Transvaal, and says that it would be shameful for the British Government to support the colonists in their most selfish desire to prevent Asiatics from trading in the country. The English have forced China, Persia and many other countries to give them the right of trading in them, and they are at this moment trying to do the same in Tibet. They should therefore consider with what feeling they will be regarded by the civilised world if they deprive Asiatics of the right of trading in the Transvaal. Everything was possible under the Boer Government of that country. But what can be a matter of greater regret than that the condition of the Indians in the Transvaal should be made worse under the English Government? It is to be hoped that the British rulers will not allow themselves to be so carried away by the unjust demand of the colonists as to trample on all considerations of justice and fair play.

HITAVADI,  
July 15th, 1904.

The question of Asiatics trading  
in the Transvaal.

3. The *Anusandhan* [Calcutta] of the 16th July has the following in English:—

ANUSANDHAN,  
July 16th, 1904.

A Russian invasion of India.

General Kuropatkin's detailed plan for the invasion of India, as published by the *Daily Express*, has created something like a sensation both here and in England. We, for our part, however, attach very little importance to it, and regard it more as a *canard* than anything else. The *Pioneer* says: "General Kuropatkin has been called to a theatre of war far removed from the Middle East, and whatever be the issue of the struggle with Japan, his great plan of wrecking the British Empire in India must now be put away for another 20 years at least, which means that its author, at any rate, will never see it tried." As we said the other day, our rulers need never be afraid of any invasion of India, if they succeed in laying the foundation of the Empire deep down in the affection and good will of the people. Let the Indian people have political enfranchisement, and have a fair share in the Government of their country. Let our rulers treat us like men, and encourage us to take an active interest in the welfare of our Government; in other words, let our interests be indissolubly bound up with those of the Government, and it will be in a position to defy a combined invasion of India by all the civilized nations of the world.

4. Referring to the plan said to have been prepared by General Kuropatkin for the invasion of India, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 16th July observes:—

BASUMATI,  
July 16th, 1904.

A Russian invasion of India.

We are not afraid of Russia. We know that Russia will never be able to enter India. We also know that there will not be a second mutiny in India. These matters do not cause us any anxiety. What we are anxious about is the attitude of the British. We fear that the British, taking all these mad schemes of Russia seriously, will bring upon distressed India more serious troubles. Already the attitude of Lord Curzon and his obliging Secretary of State has thrown us into difficulties. If their fears of Russian designs increase, our troubles will then know no end. And we dread to think of the future of Kashmir. As a matter of fact, an unfounded plea of Russian intrigue was once used to deprive the Maharaja Pratap Singh of his powers and invest the British Resident with the ruling authority. Our fears are roused afresh when we see the name of Kashmir occurring in the Russian plan as given in the *Express* newspaper.



DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 17th, 1904.

5. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th July writes as follows in an article headed "Expedition to Lhasa":—

The Tibet expedition.

Some might inquire: What have the Tibetans done for which it is necessary that they should be severely punished? The reply to this question is that the Tibetans refused to have intercourse with the English, and this is a serious offence on their part. If a poor man refuses to have anything to do with a rich neighbouring zamindar, is that considered a very serious offence on his part? We do not know whether it is so considered or not. But this is certain, that the zamindar wishes that his poor neighbour should be dependent on him, and if the poor man acts in anything against the zamindar's wishes, the latter's anger knows no bounds. The Tibetans are guilty before the English in a similar sense. Every intelligent man can judge from the doings of the British Government how grave an offence this is considered from the political point of view. The only thing that remains doubtful is the punishment that is to be awarded to the offender.

The leading principle of Western policy is gradually to gain a foothold in the affairs of foreign nations. Else, considering the distance which separates Russia from Korea, why should there be now a quarrel between Russia and Japan over Korea? China is weak and Russia is strong: that is why Russia has gradually approached the frontiers of Korea.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a)—Police.

CHARU MIHIR,  
July 12th, 1904.

6. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th July calls attention to a flagrant instance of the lawlessness prevailing in North Tangail. The big fair which is held at Sayarhat in thana Kalihati attracts people from the surrounding villages. But all the bad characters of that part of the district have made it their resort. In the heart of this crowd they openly wreak their vengeance on anybody against whom they have a grudge. Cases have been known in which people were actually dragged away by *lathials*. The zamindar who is the owner of the *hât* can easily stop these outrages. An inquiry is necessary to see who is at the back of these *lathials*.

Cases of lawlessness have long become common in North Tangail. The villagers are helpless and dacoities are on the increase. The appointment of a special officer has become necessary to stop these outrages. The villagers do not dare to bear witness against these ruffians for fear of the consequences.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
July 13th, 1904.

7. A correspondent of the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th July says that nowadays police constables are not kept in the interior of the different wards in Calcutta from 6 in the morning to 10 at night. They are kept only in the main streets between these hours. But the main street sentries are not authorised to come to the help of the residents of the interior, if needed. There are only three sentries who keep watch over the main road between Shambazar and Shovabazar. If a theft occurs in the Kantapukur quarter between the above hours, information must be given direct to the Shampukur thana, which is situated at an inconvenient distance. This rule obtains in 12 out of the 36 thanas in the town. *Budmashes* generally get out of their dens in the evening, and they make a very good time of it in the absence of sentries. And then the sentries come at 10 at night and are kept in their beats up to 6 in the morning. They divide these long and solitary hours between sleeping and arresting innocent and lonely passers-by. The latter course they adopt in order to make up the necessary number of cases which alone can keep them in the good graces of their superiors. This system should be changed as soon as possible.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
July 13th, 1904.

8. A correspondent of the *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 13th July complains of the prevalence of theft, dacoity, *budmashi*, etc., in the Muladi village in the Backergunge district. The local police is unable to cope with the situation. The attention of the District Superintendent of Police is drawn to the matter.



9. Referring to the affrays which have taken place between the Hindu and Musalman inhabitants of the Mabarakpur village in the Azamgarh district, the *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 15th July says that it was the Hindus who first wounded the religious feelings of the Musalmans.

Quarrels between Hindus and Musalmans in the Azamgarh district.

The investigation of the case should be entrusted to European police officers. It is hoped that justice will be done to the poor Musalmans of the village.

SOLTAN,  
July 15th, 1904.

10. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 15th July calls attention to the conduct of the Sub-Inspector of Police, Badarganj, in the Rangpur district. It is alleged that he uses personal violence towards his chaukidars, and that he does not take down the depositions of witnesses. During the months from September to April last, his income amounted to a little over Rs. 520, but his expenditure was Rs. 1,630. The District Superintendent of Police has been informed of this, and it will be interesting to know how this discrepancy between income and expenditure is accounted for. It is also said that the Sub-Inspector Babu's father-in-law owns some property in Badarganj. This is an additional reason why he should be speedily transferred elsewhere.

Complaint against a Sub-Inspector of Police.

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAHA,  
July 15th, 1904.

11. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 15th July publishes a letter complaining of the deplorable state of the villages included in thana Baduria in the subdivision of Basirhat. The recent rains have flooded the fields; the tanks have overflowed and the fish in them strayed away. The roads are impassable, not only for carriages and carts, but even for foot traffic. The *pucca* road which connects Basirhat with Baraset is in such a state that the mails are delayed some eight or nine hours in arriving. The principal crops of the district (*aus* paddy, jute, and sugarcane) have all been destroyed by the fields being submerged. With the stoppage of cultivation, the day-labourers find their work gone. To complete this tale of misery, the punchayet who collects the chaukidari-tax has chosen this time of all others to harass the people. He had made no collections during all the months from *Baisakh* to *Asarh*. Now he is bent on realising the taxes for two quarters together.

Complaint against a chaukidari punchayet.

The villagers offered to pay one quarter's due at present, and to pay a second instalment in *Aswin*. The punchayet, however, says that the next collections (again for two quarters) will be made in *Pous*. Has the chaukidar any authority to collect two quarters' dues together? This at least is certain that no other punchayet in this subdivision or in the neighbouring one of Baraset does so. It is hoped that the Deputy Collector of Basirhat will interfere and save the poor villagers.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
July 15th, 1904.

12. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th July says that cases of theft with house-breaking have become of almost daily occurrence in the Sibpur village near Howrah town. The village chaukidars formerly used to carry lanterns in their hands, but the present District Superintendent of Police has discontinued this practice. The chaukidars do not like to endanger their lives in the darkness, and therefore sleep their nights off as best they can on the open verandahs of men's houses. There are four outposts under the Sibpur thana, but theft and house-breaking continue uninterruptedly. In the last month thefts with house-breaking were committed in the Sahanapara, Bharpara, and other quarters of the village under the Betaitala outpost. On the 12th May last, Tinkari Babu's house under the Chatterji's *hat* outpost was broken into by *budmashes*, but nothing could be taken away. Three or four days after this occurrence a theft with house-breaking was committed in the shop of Babu Hridayanath De. Hridaya Babu is a well-to-do man. *Budmashes* have therefore even made attempts on his life. He has kept firearms and dogs, engaged *paiks*, and secured the help of the Sibpur police, but to no effect. The *budmashes* are still at large.

Theft in the Sibpur village near Howrah town.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 19th, 1904.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

13. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 14th July points out the need of an improved method of choosing assessors. Octogenarians are sometimes selected and have to apply

Choice of assessors.

KHULNA,  
July 14th, 1904.



for exemption, whilst capable persons are deliberately excluded. This failure to choose good men as assessors detracts much from the value of the appeal so often made for an extension of the jury system. The assistance and counsel of vakils and mukhtars, and of the leading men of villages and towns should be sought in preparing the lists of assessors.

KHULNA,  
July 14th, 1904.

A complaint against the Sub-  
Deputy Collector of Bagerhat.

14. The same paper calls attention to the fact that Babu Kailas Chandra Chatterjee, the Sub-Deputy Collector of Bagerhat, occupies a house belonging to the Chowdhury Babus of Basabati village, and that cases in which these Babus are concerned often come up before the Sub-Deputy for trial or inquiry. It is undesirable that a judicial officer should have any dealings or concern with one of the parties to a suit before him, as it might give rise to unfavourable comments. Attention is also drawn to the Sub-Deputy Babu's habit of indulging in a smoke in the open Court. It derogates from the dignity of the Bench.

BANGAVASI,  
July 16th, 1904.

15. Referring to the Nicoll case, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th July writes as follows:—

The Nicoll case.

We are glad that the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court showed mercy to Mr. Nicoll. The same thing happened in the case of Mr. Ross, Commissioner of the Sundarbans. Regard should be paid to the circumstances of a case in giving judgment. What is to be regretted is that the principle is not always followed.

(d)—Education.

JYOTI,  
July 14th, 1904.

The Chittagong College and  
school.

16. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 14th July remarks that from the way changes are made in the teaching staff of the Chittagong College and attached school, one would think there is nobody responsible for their welfare. The educational authorities, as well as the guardians of the students, are equally indifferent to the state of the College.

According to the students, with the transfer of Babu Sasi Bhusan Bose, the College loses the last of its capable men. Many students have left and many others are leaving for this cause. The Head Master of the Collegiate School (Babu Trailakhyanath Chatterjee) has recently been pensioned off on the score of age, but his successor is older still. Two more teachers are wanted for the higher classes. Some say that good teachers, if brought here, soon seek a transfer elsewhere, on account of the bad climate of the place. But there is not much force in this plea. Think what the condition of this institution was, say, fifteen years before. In spite of difficulties of communication, veteran teachers were posted here, and stayed for ten or twelve years at a time. Can the College at present boast of a single name like Chandra Mohan Babu, or William Datta, or Rasamay Basak, or Joges Chandra Ray, or Abinas Chandra Chatterjee? And it is the College alone that is made to suffer for the bad climate, for the same deterioration is not perceptible in the Government offices here. It is hoped that the authorities will apply the proper remedy.

SANJIVANI,  
July 14th, 1904.

The proposal to send Dr. P. C.  
Roy to England.

17. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th July is glad to hear that on the recommendation of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Government of India proposes to send Dr. P. C. Roy to England for studying chemistry. The Government deserves thanks for this, but the writer is surprised to hear that Government is not willing to bear all the expenses of Dr. Roy. Great injustice is being done to him by giving him a small salary in the Provincial Service and not promoting him to the Superior Service. He proposes to proceed to England on furlough for the cultivation of science. He ought to have been sent there on deputation and granted all facilities. Sir Andrew Fraser, the writer hears, has helped Dr. Roy to a great extent in this matter.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 15th, 1904.

Some vernacular text-books.

18. In continuation of his previous articles on the subject, a teacher writing in the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th July fails to see what merit possessed by the



books written by Mahamahopadhyaya Nilmani Nyayalankar, formerly Principal of the Sanskrit College, led the Bengal Government and its officers to appoint them as text-books for vernacular schools. It is not to be hoped that, with his opportunities for influencing the authorities, Nilmani Babu's books, however unworthy, will be rejected from the list of text-books at an early date. But the boys will thank their lot if, in consequence of this criticism, the author takes the trouble to rectify the errors and defects pointed out.

The correspondent then proceeds to quote instances of solecism from the book, and draws attention to a poem headed "The Empress Victoria" in the 1903 edition of the *Midel Bharnakular Sahitya Pustak*, in which the author calls upon the Almighty to spare Queen Victoria and wishes her long life. Is this a proof of loyalty, or does it not look like a joke at the expense of Her late Majesty, who was no longer living in 1903? The correspondent also points out grammatical mistakes in the book, and calls in question many rules of grammar set down in its grammatical portion.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

19. Referring to the Government circular on the water-supply question, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th July

CHARU MIHIR,  
July 12th, 1904.

The water-supply circular.

observes that though this circular was issued over a month ago, the people in the villages in the interior are yet ignorant of it. It is necessary to issue leaflets and distribute them village by village. No district has yet asked for the full measure of help promised by Government. This does not show that the amount promised by Government is adequate. For, there are doubts about many points still lingering in people's minds. For instance, a tank is excavated at the cost of three different parties. Nobody yet knows to whom this tank or its fishing rights will belong. Again, if a person offers to bear one-third of the cost of digging a tank for the use of himself and of the public, it is not quite clear if Government and the District Board or Municipality will make up the other two-thirds. Leaflets explaining these points should be issued to the villagers.

The article ends as follows :—

We consider the fifty thousand rupees promised by Government quite inadequate. The Lieutenant-Governor tries to clear the Government from the charge of niggardliness by the plea of want of funds. But the public, who see the immense expenditure which is being incurred in the Tibet expedition, will take this excuse for what it is worth.

20. In his Pabna speech, says the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th July, the Lieutenant-Governor remarked that not one

BANGAVASI,  
July 16th, 1904.

The question of water-supply.

district in Bengal had ever asked for so much as Rs. 5,000 for the purpose of water-supply. This is really astonishing. It is hoped that Government will, in future, call from every District Board an annual list of the expenses which it has incurred out of the grant of Rs. 5,000. Does any District Board, of its own accord, make enquiries as to what villages suffer from water-scarcity? Have the District Boards got the water-supply circular translated into the vernacular languages and distributed the translations among the villagers? His Honour has asked the District Boards and the public to act in concert with the Government. This is the opportunity for bringing the condition of villages in respect of water-supply to the notice of the authorities, and the editor promises to publish every fact that will be supplied to him in this connection.

21. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
July 13th, 1904.

The acquisition of a river-side road for a jute mill in the Hooghly district.

13th July says that the inhabitants of the Bhadreswar village in the Hooghly district have petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor protesting against the proposal to acquire the local Maniknagar Ghât road for the purpose of making it over to the local mill-owners. Immediately after the petitions, which were two in number, were submitted, the local rate-payers wrote a letter to Mr. Carey, the District Collector, requesting him not to take any steps in the matter so long as replies to these petitions were not received. But it is greatly regretted that he has rejected this request and expressed his desire to go on with the business.



This is quite in keeping with Mr. Carey's character. However that may be, the matter should receive the close attention of the public. If the Maniknagar Ghât road is acquired for the purpose specified above, it will form a very dangerous precedent, and owners of jute mills will, sooner or later, become the masters of all lands on both banks of the Hooghly.

JYOTI,  
July 14th, 1904.

22. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 11th July publishes a letter from a correspondent showing how the lessees of ferry ghâts under the District Boards extort more than the lawful fare from passengers. It is alleged that

A complaint against the lessee of a ferry.

on the 9th July last the correspondent was crossing by the ferry at Boalkhali Ghât. The ferryman asked him to pay two annas, instead of the fixed rate of one anna, and, on his refusing to do so, abused him in unmeasured terms. The reason for this state of things is said to be that the District Board takes no notice of complaints made against the lessees. It is said that this ghatwal is so much favoured by the authorities that he has been put in charge of three or four ferries.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 15th, 1904.

23. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th July rejoices to hear that Government has appointed Babu Kali Charan Banerji as Municipal Commissioner in the place of Dr. Mukerji. By appointing such a worthy man to the vacant Commissionership, His Honour

The appointment of Babu Kali Charan Banerji as a Municipal Commissioner.

the Lieutenant-Governor has earned the gratitude of the rate-payers of Calcutta.

HITAVADI,  
July 15th, 1904.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th July writes as follows:—

The Lieutenant-Governor on the elective principle in municipal administration.

It appears from the Lieutenant-Governor's Comilla speech that His Honour is a supporter of the elective principle in municipal administration, and he has expressed his willingness to extend the privilege of election to all municipalities in this Province if the Divisional Commissioners express themselves in favour of such extension. Of course, it is not possible for His Honour to enquire personally into the condition of every municipality in the province. But we fear that if any Divisional Commissioner happens to be an opponent of the elective system, the privilege which His Honour desires to bestow on all deserving municipalities may be withheld from some of them. We therefore humbly pray that, so far as this privilege is concerned, if any Divisional Commissioner gives his opinion against a municipality, that opinion should not be taken to be final. An independent enquiry should be instituted into the case and final orders passed on the result of such enquiry.

SAMAY,  
July 15th, 1904.

25. A correspondent of the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 15th July complains of the injury done by the practice of steeping jute in the water of the Betravati river in the district of Jessore. For all the months from *Bhadra* to *Pous*, the river-water becomes quite unfit for drinking purposes. The villagers are consequently compelled to depend on the small ponds in their villages. Formerly the existence of a good river near by rendered the digging of tanks unnecessary. The river-water was so much valued that it used to be conveyed in carts for the use of villagers over a mile distant. During the height of the summer, when the water is specially in demand, the stray rotten fibres of jute float on the surface and impart a bad smell to the whole river. There has been consequently a great increase of malaria. Formerly the need of mosquito curtains was not felt except in winter, now they are required all the year round. The attention of the District Magistrate and of the Subdivisional Officer of Bongong was drawn to this matter, but except a few stray cases of prosecution, no action appears to have been taken.

A cause of malaria in the mufassal.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,  
July 16th 1904.

26. The *Uluberia Darpan* [Uluberia] of the 16th July has the following in English:—

The Uluberia Municipality.

In season and out of season, in the press and on the platform, the people of Uluberia and the surrounding villages made through their leaders emphatic protests against the continuance of the Uluberia Municipality, but their cry seems to have been a far cry in the wilderness. The people all along hoped for the abolition of the municipality, and the genuine sympathy of our worthy Divisional Commissioner, Mr. T. Inglis, and of the



predecessors in office of our present District Magistrate, Mr. LeMesurier and Mr. Geake, c.s., which was enlisted in their favour by their wretched condition, had been the sheet-anchor of their hopes. The people had hitherto carried on by constitutional means a systematic and sustained agitation for the purpose of enlightening the Government on the evil effects which a costly municipal administration is sure to produce on their wretched condition, and the agitation was followed by a requisition bearing the signature of almost every Commissioner of the municipal board and embodying a request to the Government for the abolition of the municipality. The Commissioners surely sounded the death-knell of the municipality by signing the requisition.

The people, however, waited and hoped. At the very last moment, when it was believed that the days of the municipal administration in Uluberia were numbered and municipal government would be knocked on the head, the hearts of the Commissioners failed them. For, at the last meeting of the municipal board held only the other day, instead of passing a resolution forwarding the requisition to the Government and so signing the death-warrant of the municipality, the Municipal Commissioners passed, to the great bewilderment of the outside expectant public, a resolution for giving the municipal administration a fair trial in Uluberia.

There are people here who think that the requisition signed by the Commissioners ought to have been submitted to Government, and the latter thus given an opportunity of understanding the true state of things in Uluberia.

27. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 17th July writes:—

Water must accumulate in the streets of Calcutta during the rains. Calcutta whenever there is a heavy downpour of rain, and the streets must be flooded. And we must pay the taxes, and if there be the slightest irregularity, we must be hauled up before the Municipal Magistrate's Court and pay fines. This is the happiness one enjoys in Calcutta! Mr. Allen, the Chairman, has sent us the following good news. He says that water cannot pass rapidly through the underground drains: the mouths of the drains are narrow and their capacity is small. We beg therefore humbly to request Mr. Allen to see that if the Babus are seen walking in a perfectly nude state when the streets are under water, they are not arrested by the police. Our other request is that the Municipality should arrange for rafts when the streets are overflowed. The Corporation may derive a large profit by levying fares for the use of these rafts. Is it possible for the Bengalis to forsake these blessings and enjoyments of the capital town and live in villages?

RANGALAY,  
July 17th, 1904.

28. A correspondent writes to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th July complaining of the management of the Navadwip Municipality under Government. For the construction of service-privies the rate-payers

A municipal complaint from Navadwip.

asked for six months' time, but Government refused to extend the fifteen days already granted. On the 8th July last, Babu Arun Kumar Bose, the Deputy Magistrate in charge of the municipality, visited the town and issued strict orders to the municipal officers to take down the names of those who have not yet pulled down their privies. Nobody cares to think that it takes time to collect the men and materials necessary to construct new privies. Moreover, the sweepers and the masons, taking advantage of this sudden demand for their services, are demanding excessive wages, sometimes five times their former rate. The richer rate-payers who can afford it are employing them on their own terms, but their poorer brethren cannot certainly do so.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 17th, 1904.

Again, only six sweepers have been appointed to serve this town of ten thousand inhabitants. The effect is that even the few privies already constructed are not being regularly cleansed. And yet people are punished if they do not build new privies. The Municipal Commissioners may have incurred the wrath of the officials by daring to protest against their mandates, but the effects of this wrath are being visited on the helpless rate-payers. This is not certainly justifiable.

This is not all. From the 14th July last, section 241 of the Municipal Act has been enforced in this municipality. Under this section the construction of a new building or the reconstruction of part of an old building requires



DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 18th, 1904.

the previous sanction of the Chairman. Most probably no town except Calcutta has any such regulation in force. Do the circumstances of Navadwip justify the introduction of this section? Are not the authorities aware that Navadwip is one of the healthiest town in Bengal?

29. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th July publishes a letter from a correspondent containing complaints against the Commissioners of the Municipality of Sherpur in the district of Mymensingh.

Complaints against the Municipality of Sherpur in Mymensingh.

The way the new assessment list has been prepared has given rise to great discontent among the rate-payers. It presses too heavily on some and too lightly on others. In some cases the income earned within the municipality has not been taken into consideration at all; in others the income earned outside municipal limits has been added, in utter defiance of the law. The maximum rate of assessment is one rupee, but in practice it is made to vary from six pies to over one rupee. The assessment list does not show separately the income of individual rate-payers, as required by law. The District Magistrate offered to lend the services of an assessor, but the Commissioners declined the offer, on the ground, first, that they were themselves well acquainted with the circumstances of the rate-payers, and secondly, that the municipality was too poor to pay for a paid assessor. But in spite of their vaunted knowledge of the condition of the rate-payers, it is found that some persons have had their rates trebled or quadrupled, while others, much better off, are left without any increase to their tax. As to the Commissioners themselves, some evade paying the tax altogether, while others, not so fortunate, pay as small an amount as possible. The assessment of their tenants is often increased in order to bring as many of the latter as possible on the voters' list. Rate-payers appearing to show cause against increase of assessments are treated with sarcasm and dismissed. On one occasion the sarcastic language employed by the Commissioners hearing appeals against enhanced assessments actually drew tears from a female rate-payer.

Then, again, all the Commissioners, except the Government nominees and Babu Umes Chandra Ray, are elected through the influence of the 9-anna and the 10-pie local zamindars. They form a clique and exclude men like Pandit Hara Sundar Tarkaratna, the Rai Bahadur, and Babu Sivendra Kumar Chowdhury from all important Committees like those which consider the assessment or enhancement of the rates or hear objections against the increase of assessments.

The work of the Municipal Office is disorganised: the roads, the drains, the wells, the municipal privies, and the conservancy, all require attention. Sweepers are kept up at the public expense, but they can do no work for want of conservancy carts. The sweepings from the houses are not regularly carried away; the night-soil from the privies is buried near by, instead of being taken elsewhere for disposal; the dispensary is in a lamentable state; the management of the girls' school has been given up; the services of the lady doctor have been dispensed with, but the grant of Rs. 10 made by the District Board for her support is being still drawn; trusty, tried, and able tax-darogas are dismissed without reason.

DAILY HITAVADI.

To stop all these vagaries of the municipality, a meeting was called on the 3rd June last to form a Rate-payers' Association.

30. The same paper publishes a complaint against the Municipality of Azimganj in the district of Murshidabad from the pen of a correspondent. This municipality includes in its jurisdiction part of the village of

A complaint against the Azimganj Municipality.

Baranagar, famous formerly as the seat of Rani Bhavani. It is alleged that this village receives no attention from any municipal officer, except the tax-collector. Great abuses prevail in the collection of taxes. For instance, persons occupying the same holding are made to pay taxes separately. If necessary, the names of these individuals may be supplied. Although there are no arrangements made for privies, Act V is being rigorously enforced. The municipality should make better arrangements for the lighting and cleansing of this part of the village or relieve the inhabitants of the taxes. The public roads are in a deplorable condition, and their sides are overgrown



with weeds dense enough to conceal tigers. Yet the Municipal Commissioners go on utterly oblivious of these inconveniences of the rate-payers.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

31. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 12th July reports that on the 8th July last the Damodar was in flood. A crowd assembled to witness the impressive sight of the roaring river. The pleasure which they might have got from it was, however, marred by a contemplation of the enormous injury this flood was inflicting on the villages on the opposite bank of the river. These villages are completely flooded. How many people have been rendered homeless from this cause, and how many more are reduced to starvation! Some people are forced to pass days and nights on the high mounds on the bank of a tank. There is no doubt that all this suffering is now being actually undergone by the villagers on the south bank of the Damodar. Formerly there was an earthen embankment on the south side of the river, which protected these villages. But the Government ordered its demolition, being guided by considerations for the safety of the East Indian Railway. It is to be hoped that with the above facts fresh before its eyes, Government will consider the need of applying some remedy.

32. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 13th July refers to the prevalence of water-scarcity in the area bounded by the Karhapur (Sugandha) river in the west, the Lakhutia river in the north, the Barisal town in the east, and the Kalijira or Bara Simulia *don* (?) in the south. The northern portion of the Baniakathi-Bheduria *khal* up to the Madhabpasa village remains unfit for navigation for more than eight months in the year. Water accumulates in the Solna, Kaladoma, Chatha, Mangalhata, Karamja, Raypasa, Diapara, Defulia and many other villages on either bank of the *khal*, causing injury to cultivation and endangering the health of the locality. The re-excavation of the Bheduria *khal* has been in the contemplation of the authorities since 20 years past. Even the plan of the projected work has been drawn up and the necessary survey work executed. But the matter is being indefinitely delayed. The re-excavation of the *khal* will facilitate traffic and give a stimulus to the local trade.

33. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th July says that it is incredible that only one Indian was killed and four were wounded in the accident to the Madras mail last Thursday night near the Narayangarh station. Altogether seven carriages were derailed. The carriages were full of passengers for Puri. There was a full-flooded river within a hundred yards of the place of accident. Who knows how many hundreds of the killed and the injured have been swept away by the rapid current?

34. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 14th July points out the following defects in the management of the Assam-Bengal Railway, and hopes that as this railway practically belongs to Government, the defects will be remedied:—

(1) The quarters provided for the railway employes are such that even if cattle were housed in them they would die off. The floors of the houses should be raised, and more windows and doors put up.

(2) Railway employes are provided with a free pass twice every year. Only wife and children are included in this concession, but having regard to the customs of this country, one's mother also should be included.

(3) Through intermediate class carriages should be provided for the journey between Chittagong and Chandpur.

(4) A platform and a waiting-room have yet to be provided at Sitakund station. If ten English ladies had suffered a hundredth part of the inconvenience now being daily undergone by thousands of Indian females, there would have been no occasion to raise this question now at all.



DAILY  
HITAVADI,  
July 15th, 1904.

35. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th July publishes the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1) Babu Brajanath Chakrabarti writes from Raniganj Burrabazar that when on the 25th June last he arrived at the Piardoba station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway it was raining. He had ladies and children with him. With them he took shelter from the rain under the corrugated iron shed which was the waiting-room of the station. A *khalasi* belonging to the station then came and threw the passenger's wet clothes, umbrella, and other things outside and ordered him to quit the place. The jemadar then came there and the two men grossly abused him. He brought the matter to the notice of the Station Master and the Assistant Station Master, but they took no steps.

(2) Three railway guards, while returning to their quarters from the Asansol railway station on the 10th July last, attempted to commit outrage upon some native women and then chased another woman. They fell upon a third woman named Mokshoda and were then arrested by the Railway Police. The police took the deposition of the station officers. The case will shortly come up before the Court, and it is to be hoped that no attempt will be made to hush up the matter as the accused are Europeans.

(3) A correspondent from Kushtia complains of great inconvenience suffered by passengers at the Halsa station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway for want of a waiting-room, and suggests that the old Telegraph Office, now vacant, may be converted into a waiting-room for passengers.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,  
July 16th, 1904.

36. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 16th July complains that the management of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway is going from bad to worse. For one complaint

A railway complaint.

that is remedied, half-a-dozen new ones crop up. Here is a specific case: On the 12th July last, the Puri up passenger train which leaves Howrah at 10-46 A.M. had no intermediate class car in it. Yet intermediate class tickets were issued to passengers. Two passengers who held intermediate class tickets brought the matter to the notice of the ticket-collector on duty, but were told by him to apply to the Station Master. The Station Master of Howrah shirked the matter by replying that he was not concerned with the doings of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The passengers thereupon entered a second class car, and it is a wonder they were left unmolested. But are not the railway authorities practically guilty of fraud in thus making passengers pay fare for the intermediate class, while providing only third-class accommodation for them?

The next complaint has reference to the terrible overcrowding of the third-class carriages. The railway officials often force as many as twenty to thirty men into a compartment which has room for only ten. A case recently occurred in which a passenger had to suffer so much trouble and strain in finding a seat that he actually fell ill and vomited out the food he had just taken. One remedy for this overcrowding in the Puri train is to make the Uluberia local train which leaves Howrah at 7-18 A.M. run a little farther, or at any rate the number of carriages in the Puri passenger train might be increased.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 17th, 1904.

37. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th July calls attention to a case of misappropriation by railway employes. It is alleged that a relative of

A railway complaint.

the correspondent's despatched thirty-five mangoes by railway parcel from Maganmari station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway to Gangpur station on the East Indian Railway. The addressee, however, received only one stone; all the rest had been misappropriated on the way. As the parcel was securely packed and properly booked, there is only one way it could have been tampered with.

DAILY HITAVADI.

38. The same paper has the following in its editorial columns:—

The Asansol railway outrage case.

What we expected has come to pass. The railway guards who were accused of committing an outrage on female passengers at Asansol have been let off with a nominal punishment. The District Traffic Superintendent of the Railway (Mr. Colvin) has contented himself with fining each of the offending guards two days' pay. He says that the accused committed the outrage in a fit of drunkenness, and as it was their first offence, it should



be dealt with lightly. We cannot approve of this display of solicitude for his employés on the part of Mr. Colvin. For railway employés to molest passengers, specially females, is a heinous offence: it is a no less serious offence that they should lose their senses through indulging in too much drink. Moreover, if the offenders had been blacks and had offended in a similar way, it is doubtful if Mr. Colvin would have been so lenient. If a native railway employé had given chase to some European ladies, and, after felling one of them to the ground, had sat on her head, Mr. Colvin would not have lost a moment in dismissing him, and the entire European community would have rung with denunciations of the insolence and inefficiency of native officials. The fact is this,—the higher European railway officials do not hold the dignity and honour of Indian ladies as sacred as those of their European sisters; native passengers are as so many cattle in their eyes; else why should they not hesitate to provide goods-waggons for their use? This ill-treatment of those very natives whose hard-earned money supports the railways, displays intense meanness and ingratitude on the part of those concerned.

We understand that Mr. Colvin has not contented himself with letting off these rascally guards easily. He has also requested the Railway Police to hush up the matter. We are astounded at this exhibition of his impudence. The police represent the Government, and it is their duty to preserve the public peace by bringing offenders to book. In cases instituted by the police, the Emperor himself appears as plaintiff to see that the offenders are properly punished. The Railway District Traffic Superintendent has absolutely no authority over the police. How then can Mr. Colvin request the Assistant Inspector-General of the Railway Police to drop this case? And we cannot imagine how the Assistant Inspector-General can act on such an unjust request. We consider it the duty of Government to see that offenders accused of ill-treating railway passengers are not let off easily. We trust the attention of both the Provincial and Imperial Governments will be drawn to this case, and due punishment meted out to the offending guards.

39. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 17th July has the following:—

The Asansol railway guards outrage case. A rumour is afloat that some railway employés of Asansol, donning hats and coats and going by the name of *goras*, while the worse for liquor, took undue liberties with a Hindustani woman. The railway *Burra Saheb* of Asansol says: "Oh! the poor fellows are all very good men; while in liquor they did a little merry-making and no more; it will be sufficient punishment if they are fined three days' pay." Yes, very true! The Hindustanis must be beings destitute of the functions of males, and can there be any distinction of males and females among such beings? Had there been any, the bones of these Europeans would never have remained whole in the fields of Asansol. Oppressions upon emasculated persons are no oppressions at all. Oppressions by European railway officers at Umballa are also complained of. Why do people who are accustomed to suffer oppressions and know how to suffer them, cry aloud? Why do they complain? The base cowards should keep quiet.

RANGALAY,  
July 17th, 1904.

40. The *Santi* [Madaripore] of the 14th July calls attention to the urgent need of a road for the use of the inhabitants of Dulukhand, Achura, Atipara, Nar and the other villages under Palang thana. During the

Wanted a new village road in Madaripore subdivision.

rains the whole of this part of the country is turned into a large *bil*, and the difficulty of communication that results can only be appreciated by an actual sufferer. The villagers have been petitioning the District Board for the last three or four years for a small road only half a mile long, but in vain. They have been paying the road cess regularly, and this is all the benefit they get out of it. This attitude of the District Board shows that they deliberately confine their grants to particular favoured localities. Else why should this small matter of a road only half a mile long be hung up so long? This year the villagers have made a fresh appeal to the District Board offering to bear half the cost, and it is to be hoped that it will meet with better success.

SANTI,  
July 14th, 1904.



BANGAVASI,  
July 16th, 1904.

41. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th July says that an order has recently been issued to the effect that in future water should not be supplied for irrigation purposes from the Midnapore Canal to the Muksudpur mauza in the Lachhmipur section in the Midnapore district. The mauza comprises 325 acres of agricultural land, and if the canal water is withheld from it there will be complete failure of crops therein.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 17th, 1904.

42. A correspondent writes to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th July as follows:—

The Suryapur Canal.

A canal runs through Suryapur, south of Baruipur in the district of the 24-Parganas, connecting with the main river. It was formerly the only drainage outlet of the surrounding country. There is a lock-gate in the canal at the place where it passes the Kulpi Road. This gate was meant to keep out the salt-water of the sea from coming in at flood tide, and also to let out the excess of water from the surrounding country. But as the gate is not opened at the proper time, deposits of sand on the sides of the gate as well as in the bed of the canal have choked up the channel altogether. For the last few years the water on the surrounding fields has gone on accumulating in the rainy season and stopped all cultivation. Large fields are quite submerged and wear the appearance of a marsh. About two years ago, at the commencement of the rains, salt-water began to flow over the top and sides of the gate. This salt-water finds no exit and the soil is getting water-logged. In addition to destroying cultivation, it has now begun to poison the sources of the drinking water-supply of the villagers. Fever is consequently very rife. Government sanctioned a grant last year to re-excavate the drainage channel. Works were begun, but how the money was spent nobody knows. The sand deposits and the water still remain where they were. The need of relief is urgent.

NIHAR,  
July 19th, 1904.

43. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 19th July complains of the defective arrangements for the drainage of mauza Kasaria in thana Khajuri. Though there is a sluice-gate, there is no easy way of opening it. Consequently after a heavy shower, the water is not rapidly drained away. This inflicts great loss on the poor villagers. The authorities should make arrangements whereby the sluice-gate may be opened when necessary.

(h)—General.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
July 12th, 1904.

44. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 12th July has the following:— It is rumoured that the authorities will annex only the Chittagong Division to Assam and spare Dacca and Mymensingh. We have to thank our own luck for it. Of course nobody has a right to protest against the whims of Government. All our wails are mere cries in the wilderness.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
July 13th, 1904.

45. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 13th July publishes two poems in which the Lieutenant-Governor is cordially and gratefully welcomed to Barisal town. The writers refer to the want of a proper water-supply in the district which causes a heavy mortality among the inhabitants, to the hardship which is caused by the want of a railroad to Barisal, and to the usurious habits of money-lenders which ruin the poor and guileless cultivator.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
July 13th, 1904.

46. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th July writes as follows:— Sir Andrew Fraser is a believer in the mosquito theory of malaria. But this belief is unfounded, because he has made no personal investigation in the matter. Recently Major Ross and some other men have raised a clamour over the subject, and the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it necessary to lead a campaign against the mosquito race. There may be poetry in Major Ross's conclusions, but they are not based on science. It would be better if His Honour directed his attention to a practical solution of the malaria difficulty.



47. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 13th July has the following:—

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
July 13th, 1904.

Abuses in connection with the  
income-tax assessments.

The minimum income assessable to income-tax was recently raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000.

This ought to mean great relief to a large number of people. But what do we find in practice? Incomes of less than Rs. 500 are being assessed as incomes of over Rs. 1000, and rates of Rs. 20 are being levied instead of the ten or fifteen rupees as before. If the tax-payers object, the Deputy Collector shows temper, and uses threats of criminal prosecution, evidently to keep others away. Even if account-books and other trustworthy documents are produced in evidence, he refuses to believe in them. The assessors' statements are taken as gospel truths, and a great eagerness is displayed to dismiss as many objections as possible. There is no knowing where these oppressed tax-payers can find redress. How many of them can afford the expense of moving the higher Courts? The payment of the tax itself means expense; appealing to the Deputy Collector means further expense; and how many can put up with the still further expense of a fresh appeal? The money necessary for all these appeals is quite enough to pay the taxes for some time, and that is why most people remain content with this present relief.

Government knows what a large proportion of these appeals are rejected year by year, yet it does not enquire why. In fact it is only to comply with the forms of the law that these appeals are allowed to be made. The Deputy Collectors have a personal interest in rejecting these appeals. If they succeed in showing an increase in the amount realised, they come in for praise and promotion from their official superiors. If they do not, they are rebuked and have to submit explanations.

The only parties who have been gainers under the new rule are the Government servants. Otherwise the majority of tax-payers are actually worse off than before. Perhaps this is all that Lord Curzon intended, else why should he permit such things as the above to happen?

It is a great pity that what was meant for a concession should prove a curse. For as things are, the old system was better than the new one, for then people had to pay ten or fifteen rupees where they are now made to pay twenty or twenty-five rupees.

If people are really to enjoy the benefits of this concession, some changes in procedure are necessary. Objections to assessment should be heard like ordinary criminal suits by all Deputy Magistrates, and not by the Income-tax Deputy Collector alone; and appeals should be allowed to the Sessions. Then only can there be any hope of justice being done.

48. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th July writes:—

A postal inconvenience.

Not less than 12 post-offices receive their mails through the Balichak station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Though this is a very important station, yet the up Madras mail train does not touch here, and the consequence is that the mails which are received by the Puri passenger train are detained at the Debra sub-post-office for 24 hours. This inconvenience may be removed if the up Madras mail touch at the Balichak station and receive and deliver the mails. It is to be hoped the Postal authorities will arrange with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities to stop the up Madras mail at Balichak.

SANJIVANI,  
July 14th, 1904.

49. The same paper writes:—

We have got many other facts concerning Mr. Marindin, Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division. We publish them for the information of Government.

SANJIVANI.

The late Maharaja Govindalal Ray and Mohunt Sumeru Giri Gossain are the two leading zamindars of Rangpur. The accounts of their zamindaris have been filed in court in a certain case. We have got the accounts of the zamindaris of the Mohunt Maharaj and of the late Maharaja Govindalal Ray for the Bengali year 1308 and for some months of 1309. The Rangpur district is full of zamindars. We do not know how much is spent by all the zamindars annually for the supply of *rasad* and *dalis* to Mr. Marindin. But we publish below the accounts of the sums spent for him by the above two zamindars.



The following account of disbursements is found in the zamindari accounts for 1308 of the Mohunt Maharaj:—

*The 27th Pous—Saturday.*

DISBURSEMENTS.

Babu Navakumar Das Gupta took the articles for the *dali* of *Srila sri jucta* Commissioner Saheb Bahadur from the station to the Magistrate's *kuthi*: carriage-hire for the Babu's journey to and from the station paid to himself, Re. 1-8.

*The 28th Pous—Sunday.*

DISBURSEMENTS.

Purchase of articles for the *dali* of *Srila sri jucta* Commissioner Saheb Bahadur at Nawabganj, paid to Navakumar Das Gupta:—

					Rs.	A.
<i>Bedana</i> (pomegranates),	2 seers	...	...	...	4	0
<i>Kismis</i> (raisins),	2 "	...	...	...	0	8
<i>Pesta</i> (pistachio nuts),	2 "	...	...	...	4	0
<i>Seo</i> (apples),	10	...	...	...	1	2
<i>Manaccas</i> (currants),	2 seers	..	...	...	0	12
Plums, 50	...	...	...	...	0	4
Total					10	10

For the same *dali* a *rohit* fish purchased; paid to same, Re. 1-8.

*The 29th Pous—Monday.*

DISBURSEMENTS.

Bearers were taken from this place to carry the articles of the *dali* of *Srila sri jucta* Commissioner Saheb Bahadur. Paid on account of the wages and fooding charge of these men by the order of the Manager to Navakumar Das Gupta:—

					As.
Nirshu Dohad	...	...	...	...	2
Nathu Dohad	...	...	...	...	2
Bija Dohad	...	...	...	...	2
Chorai	...	...	...	...	4
Total					10

Paid to same on account of the carriage-hire of these men for their journey to and from the Magistrate's *kuthi*, Re. 1-8.

1308 (B.S.)

*The 4th Magh—Friday.*

DISBURSEMENTS.

Karimulla having come with a *paik* and the driver Banulla with his *charry* to take the articles of the *dali* for the Commissioner Saheb Bahadur from Mithapukur, paid to Karimulla on account of fooding charge of the *paik* and the driver, annas 3.

*The 5th Magh—Saturday.*

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid to Kari, driver, on account of carriage-hire for Navakumar Das Gupta, *Jamanabis*, to bring the articles of the *dali* of *Srila sri jucta* Commissioner Saheb Bahadur to the station, Re. 1.

Paid to Manmathanath Ray on account of the charge for an urgent telegram sent to *Srila sri jucta* Karta Maharaj by the Manager, as per receipt, Rs. 6-8.

Paid by the Manager to the Collector's *khansama* as reward for the safe custody of the articles of the *dali* and for bringing the same, Re. 1.



The 9th Magh—Wednesday.

DISBURSEMENTS.

*Srila sri jucta* Commissioner Sahab Bahadur and the Magistrate having gone to Mithapukur, the Manager was ordered by the latter to go there. Paid to Kaltu Khandikar, driver, as earnest money for three carts, Rs. 2.

Articles for the *sri sri jucta* Commissioner's *dali* purchased by Navakumar Das Gupta at Nawabganj as per list:—

				Rs.	A.
Pomegranates,	3 seers	...	...	6	0
Pistachio, nuts	2 "	...	...	4	0
Manacca,	2 "	...	...	1	8
Raisins,	2 "	...	...	1	0
Almonds,	2 "	...	...	1	8
Walnuts,	1 seer	...	...	1	0
Oranges,	50	...	...	1	0
Peshwari cocoanuts,	11 chittaks	...	...	0	10
Algotha,	1 seer	...	...	1	0
Tobacco,	2 seers	...	...	0	12
Salgam (turnips),	5	...	...	0	5
Guavas,	10	...	...	0	5
Table rice,	10 seers	...	...	2	2
Refined sugar,	2 "	...	...	0	10
Sugarcandy,	2½ "	...	...	1	0
Ghee (from cow's milk),	3 " (at 90 tolas per seer)	...	...	4	8
Flour, <i>suji</i>	2 seers	...	...	0	7
Cinnamon leaves,	1 pawa	...	...	0	1
Rabin Guzerati (cardamoms),	½ seer	...	...	3	8
Large cardamoms,	1 "	...	...	1	4
Cloves,	½ "	...	...	0	8
Saffron,	½ tola	...	...	0	10
Malbhog plantain,	2 bunches	...	...	0	8
Cabbages,	4	...	...	1	0
Cauliflowers,	4	...	...	0	15
Knolecoles,	8	...	...	0	4
A tin canister for ghee,	1	...	...	0	3
Cummin seed	½ seer	...	...	0	6
Black pepper	½ "	...	...	0	8
Total				37	6

The 11th Magh—Friday.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid to Dwip Narayan Singh on account of cart-hire for conveying the articles of the *dali* for the Commissioner, annas 7.

The 22nd Magh—Tuesday.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid to Bakaridu Mistri on account of cart-hire for conveying the articles received from Calcutta for the Commissioner's *dali* from the station to the Magistrate's *kuthi* (due for 28th Pous) ... 0 8

The following disbursements appear in the accounts for 1309 (B.S.):—

The 24th Sravan—Saturday.

DISBURSEMENTS.

The Commissioner and the Magistrate convened a meeting on the occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty Edward VII and in that meeting *nautohes* were held. Paid on account of the hire of three carriages for the *naulch*-girls from Calcutta ... 3 0  
Paid to the carriage driver for his fooding ... 0 2  
Total ... 3 2



The 25th Sravan.

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid to Tilak Singh Jemadar on account of an urgent telegram to the Great Eastern Hotel Company of Calcutta for sending turkey, ham, cakes, etc., for the Commissioner's *dali* :—

	Rs.	A.
Telegraph fees ... ..	7	8
Reply prepaid ... ..	1	0
Total ... ..	8	8

The price of those articles was sent by a telegraphic money-order paid to the above :—

	Rs.	A.
Sent by money-order ... ..	30	0
Money-order fees ... ..	0	8
Telegram ... ..	1	0
Total ... ..	31	8

The 28th Sravan—Wednesday.

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Purchase of sundry articles for the Commissioner's *dali* by Anath Bandhu Datta of Nawabganj as per list of the 26th instant :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Table rice, 10 seers ... ..	2	0	0
Ghee, 5 „ ... ..	7	8	0
Sugarcandy, 6 „ ... ..	1	15	0
Rabin Guzerati (cardamoms), 1 seer ... ..	7	8	0
Cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer ... ..	0	8	0
Cummin seed, 1 seer ... ..	0	14	0
Black pepper, 2 seers ... ..	2	0	0
Chillies, 2 „ ... ..	0	12	0
A tin canister for ghee ... ..	0	2	0
Raisins, 2 seers ... ..	1	8	0
Pistachio nuts, 2 „ ... ..	5	0	0
Almonds, 2 „ ... ..	2	8	0
Manacca raisins, 2 „ ... ..	2	0	0
Bussora prunes, 2 „ ... ..	2	0	0
Nyaspatis (a Kabuli fruit), 20 ... ..	2	0	0
Butter, 11 chittaks ... ..	1	6	0
Fowls, 10 ... ..	7	12	0
Eggs, 15 ... ..	0	8	0
Lemons, 32 ... ..	0	4	0
Laldana, 5 seers ... ..	0	6	3
Safeddana ... ..	0	2	0
Pineapple, 1 ... ..	0	3	0
Fooding charge of Dwip Narayan Singh, who accompanied Anath Bandhu Datta ... ..	0	2	0
Paid to Herambanath Bhaduri on account of the fooding charge of the following persons who accompanied the <i>dali</i> :—			
Jemadar ... ..	0	4	0
Two barkandazes ... ..	0	4	0
Five syces ... ..	0	10	0
Five halmajhis ... ..	0	10	0
Two coachmen ... ..	0	4	0
Carriage hire for conveying the articles from the Raja's place to the Commissioner's <i>kuthi</i> ... ..	1	0	0

Also the following articles :—

Cloves, 1 seer ... ..	1	0	0
Salt, 2 seers ... ..	0	3	9
One earthen pot ... ..	0	0	9
Total ... ..	53	3	9



The minor son of the late Maharaja Govindalal Ray is the sole heir of his zamindari. The following statement shows how much was spent during the Bengali year 1309, on account of *rasad* from the minor's property—

1309 (B.S.), the 30th Chaitra—Monday.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Miscellaneous expenditure (*chit* No. 1422), Rs. 320-11-3.

Paid on account of *rasad* for the Commissioner during his stay at Rangpur, from the 22nd to the 29th *Sravan* 1309 (B.S.) and the fooding charges of the *amla* and servants who accompanied him, also on account of charges for engaging carriages for him exclusive of the price of articles brought from Calcutta per Sarat Chandra Majumder as per bill No. 155, Rs. 320-11-3.

Miscellaneous expenditure (*chit* No. 1421), Rs. 44-13-9.

Paid on account of *rasad* for the Commissioner during his stay at Rangpur on the 25th *Pous* 1308 (B.S.) and for *dalis* of other *hakims* and the fooding and other charges of the *amla* of the Commissioner exclusive of the price of articles received from Calcutta as per accounts prepared by Prasanna Chandra Basu and Sarat Chandra Majumder and bill submitted, Rs. 441-13-9.

Over and above Rs. 441-13-9, as detailed above, spent on the occasion of the Commissioner's visit, the price of articles brought from Calcutta was also paid. This latter sum is not to be found in the above accounts. Similarly, the amount paid as price of articles received from Calcutta on the occasion of the Commissioner's stay at Rangpur from the 22nd to the 29th *Sravan* 1309 (B.S.), over and above Rs. 320-11-3, as detailed above, is not stated in the accounts.

We respectfully ask His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser whether, if the above accounts are correct, Mr. Marindin's conduct was proper or not.

The Mohunt Maharaj presented *dalis* to the Commissioner twice during 1308 (B.S.), once in *Pous* and again in *Magh*. *Dalis* had to be presented also in *Sravan* of 1309 (B.S.). The most objectionable act was to bring *nautch*-girls from Calcutta to provide amusements for the people assembled in the meeting held in honour of the Coronation of the King-Emperor. The Commissioner knows well to what class of people the *nautch*-girls belong. It is superfluous to say anything in this connection about the Magistrate. Sir Andrew Fraser may not know what these *nautch*-girls are. For the information of His Honour we may say that they are prostitutes and no gentleman ought to allow them to approach the precincts of his house. Yet, in the public meeting held in honour of the Coronation of the King-Emperor, these prostitutes were made to sing and dance! Far from trying to encourage purity, the rulers deliberately encouraged immorality!

Let His Honour judge whether it would be for the good of the country if persons who have a love for immorality and publicly encourage it are retained in any post under Government.

To accept *dalis* and *rasad* is a dreadful malady from which Government officers are suffering. An officer of the late Maharaja Govindalal Ray deposed in court that the Maharaja, while alive, had ordered that not more than Rs. 25 a day for the *rasad* of the Deputy Magistrates, Rs. 50 for the District Magistrate, Rs. 70 to Rs. 100 for the Commissioner, and Rs. 25 for the District Superintendent of Police, should be spent. He expressed great dissatisfaction at finding that more than Rs. 1,000 had been spent in one year for *rasad*.

These cases prove that the practice of taking *rasad* has become a matter of *zulm*. Mr. Marindin is an expert hand in taking *rasad*. We published in due time in our columns how he oppressed people in the Pabna district by taking *rasad* from them during his visit to that district.

Mr. Marindin is a high Government officer; but we know His Honour is not afraid to tell the truth even though it should prove unpalatable. Will not His Honour try to ascertain the truth or otherwise of what appears from the accounts of the late Maharaja Govindlal Ray and of the Mohunt Maharaj? Should not Mr. Marindin be punished if it be proved that he is in the habit of taking *rasad*?

Very ugly disclosures have been made regarding many high Government officials. We pray His Honour to take prompt measures to clear them from all reproach and to set a good example by inflicting condign punishment upon all wicked and immoral officials.



KHULNA,  
July 14th, 1904.

50. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 14th July takes the occasion of the approaching visit of the Lieutenant-Governor to the district to bring to His Honour's notice the following facts as to the real condition of its people:—

Matters for the Lieutenant-Governor's consideration in Khulna.

Owing to a succession of bad seasons the villagers in many cases are in terrible distress. Some are starving, and cannot even scrape together enough to meet the expenses of cultivation. The Collector of the district is not mindful of their condition. There is a rule for Government to make *takavi* advances to help them to improve their lands. It behoves the Lieutenant-Governor to inquire how much money was advanced to cultivators during the last ten years, excluding of course the famine years. The Collector draws every month a large sum of money for travelling expenses, but is never seen to go to a village and inquire into the condition of its inhabitants. Visits to the head-quarters of the subdivisions or to the thanas are not enough for the purpose. The tanks constructed out of the funds of the District Board are mostly confined to those villages where the members of the Board have a local interest, through residence or business, etc. The silting up of the Kabodak and the introduction of salt in its water have thrown many adjacent tracts of land out of cultivation by depositing saline matter on them. Has any Collector of the district, except Mr. Vincent, ever inquired into this question? The present Collector, Mr. Ahmed, is a new man and has not yet had time to acquaint himself with all these local conditions.

The agricultural and industrial exhibition held every year under the patronage of the District Magistrate is a great farce. A great amount of money is wasted on worthless amusements.

There is another serious subject of complaint to which His Honour's attention may be drawn. Once every year, and sometimes more than once in the course of a year, certificates are issued against the poor cultivators of the *khas mahals*, and their goods, moveable and immovable, put up to auction.

These certificate *parwanas* are issued quite regardless of the distressed condition of the poor defaulters. Private zamindars sometimes relax the severity of their collections, but it is in vain to look for such concessions from the Collector. If this method of realising money by issuing certificates be proper, what is the use of wasting the public money by keeping up a staff of tahsildars, paiks, barkandazes, etc.?

JYOTI,  
July 14th, 1904.

51. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 14th July has the following:—

Native pilots in the Chittagong port.

The native lascar is gradually replacing the English sailor, because English merchants are learning by experience that the native is more serviceable and hardy than the European, while he is content with much smaller wages. This is the estimate of private employers as regards the worth of natives. As regards employment under the State, natives naturally have a prior claim to foreigners. But our English rulers act as though this were not the case. There are five native pilots for the Chittagong port, with a European Superintendent. The highest pay for the natives is Rs. 100, while the Superintendent gets Rs. 400. And yet there is nothing to show that the European works harder than the natives, or that the natives cannot do the work done by the European. The Superintendent is soon going to have a European Assistant on Rs. 250 to Rs. 300. Might not a native have been selected at a gain both of economy and efficiency? Official ways and un-official ways are quite different.

SAMAY,  
July 15th, 1904.

52. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 15th July makes the following remarks on the proposed abolition of competitive examinations for appointments to the public service:—

Competition versus nomination in the public service.

We do not think that the substitution of nomination for competition as a method of recruiting the public service would result in the appointment of a larger number of educated men than now. In Bengal, the existing rule is to fill up two-thirds of the vacancies by competition and one-third by nomination. And are not those selected by competition superior to those selected by nomination in education, efficiency, intelligence, and independence? If we were to compare the respective merits of the two classes,



it would be our duty to say many unpleasant things of those nominated by Government. We refrain out of consideration for the feelings of both parties.

The scions of rich families who usually get the nominations to the Deputy Magistracies and Sub-Deputy Magistracies possess in the majority of cases only a limited amount of intelligence and learning. These pet darlings of their families owe their appointment only to the favour of the higher officials. Nobody supposes that the work of the State is efficiently discharged by them. And even our paternal Government knows this well. It appoints these people with its eyes open, only out of consideration for the feelings of the parties concerned. It is a great shame if this display of inefficiency is not enough to bring Government to its proper senses.

Nobody can ever claim for the system of nomination that it is faultless. And it is really a wonder how Government, after all the experience it has had of the working of this system, comes to be suddenly convinced of its superiority. It would be a different matter if Government had some other object at the background than the efficiency of the public service. The mere harbouring of such a suspicion, however, makes us ashamed of ourselves. What then can be the explanation?

We admit a thousand times that if educated men are admitted into the public service, they generally prove independent and unwilling to be the mere tools of the district authorities. There is no doubt that the majority of such men look more to efficiency than to mere obedience. We wish to know which class of its servants Government prefers—those who merely carry out the orders of superiors, or those who work with an eye to efficiency alone? We have nothing to say if it is laid at the door of the competitive system that it produces men who cannot blindly obey the private directions of the district and divisional authorities and of the Secretaries to Government.

53. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th July is glad that the attention of the authorities has at last been drawn to the oppressive and arbitrary conduct of Mr. Yakchee, the Superintendent of the Revenue Board's office, and that the Hon'ble Mr. Savage has made a personal enquiry in the matter. Even this has failed to make any impression on Mr. Yakchee, and he still tyrannises over his subordinates. A *daftari* named Khairu attached to the Board's office went home on two days' leave. But he was afterwards obliged to apply for further leave. Mr. Yakchee has, for this reason, suspended him for one month. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI.  
July 15th, 1904.

54. The same paper is sorry that the Burma Government has still taken no notice of the arbitrary and oppressive conduct of Mr. Sanderson of the Rangoon Government Press. Recently the Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the appointment of a new Deputy Superintendent for the Press on a monthly salary ranging from Rs. 350 to Rs. 550. When Mr. Sanderson proposed the creation of this post, the proposal was supplemented by a request that an English bachelor should be brought out from England for filling it. The Superintendent was unwilling to give the post to a native or to an Anglo-Indian. Why does Mr. Sanderson ask for a bachelor? Has he any mind to form any family connexion with the new Deputy?

HITAVADI,

During the last 17 months 22 men attached to the Press have either been dismissed or forced to resign, 6 have retired, and 8 have taken long leave. Has not the Burma Government heard of all this?

Mr. Sanderson has ruled that in giving *extra* remuneration for overtime work done by his subordinates from April last, the full day should be taken to consist of 8 hours instead of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours, as directed in the Burma Government Press Manual. It is to be hoped that the Burma Government will pass orders to pay to the poor men the amounts of which they have been thus unjustly deprived.

Mr. D. A. Chinia, a clerk under Mr. Sanderson, had taken leave under Mr. Sanderson's predecessor. While on leave, Mr. Chinia was taken ill and he applied for its extension. Twice he was granted leave, but on the second occasion without pay. Under the Civil Service Regulations a Government



servant on long leave is entitled to an absentee allowance amounting to what remains from the pay of the appointment after provision is made for the efficient discharge of his duties during his absence, and according to this rule Mr. Chinia ought to have received an absentee allowance of Rs. 15 per month. But it was withheld from him. Again, Mr. Sanderson wrote many irrelevant things against Mr. Chinia to the Civil Surgeon who had certified to his illness. A few days after this the Civil Surgeon certified that Mr. Chinia was fit for work. So Mr. Chinia had to return to his work, but within two months he was again taken ill and applied for leave on the strength of a certificate which had been granted him by the Civil Surgeon of Rangoon. This enraged Mr. Sanderson. He reduced Mr. Chinia's salary by Rs. 10 and granted him leave without absentee allowance. Under what authority did Mr. Sanderson disregard the Civil Surgeon's certificate? However that may be, after this incident Mr. Sanderson issued a circular to the effect that if in future any of his subordinates should produce a Civil Surgeon's certificate without his permission, that man should be dismissed. What oppression! Will not the Burma Government take this matter into their consideration?

There is no end of Mr. Sanderson's oppressions. In May last he reduced the salary of one Narsimulu from Rs. 14 to Rs. 12. Narsimulu has been serving in the Press for the last 14 or 15 years. No one knows why his salary was reduced. Mr. Sanderson has made the Press too hot for everyone, from the peon to the *chota saheb*. The sooner he is removed from the charge of the Press the better.

BANGAVASI,  
July 16th, 1904.

55. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th July says that Babu Rajkishor Das and Babu Kunja Bihari Das Gupta, the Manager and Inspector, respectively, of the Puri Jagannath *mandir*, made excellent arrangements on the occasion of the last *Rathajatra* festival. They worked hard and left no stone unturned to make the pilgrims comfortable.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 17th, 1904.

56. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th July calls attention to three cases in which the Commissioner of the Sundarbans is alleged to have failed to do justice :—

Complaints against the Commissioner of the Sundarbans.

(1) A survey amin (Munshi Gholam Rabbani by name) entered service on the 15th December 1900. After serving till the 6th March next he had to resign owing to illness. At the time he left he had not drawn certain sums due to him from Government. These were his pay for February (Rs. 25), his contingent charges for the same month (Rs. 2), and his pay for the six days of March (Rs. 5). He made several applications under registered cover for the payment of the sums due, but got no reply whatever. He is still waiting for his money.

(2) An amin named Mobarik Hosain Mian, while working in the Chandkhali Camp, lost two survey instruments. The Commissioner thereupon deducted Rs. 5 from his pay to replace them. But their proper price is only a rupee and four annas in all. Thus the poor man is mulcted in five rupees for goods worth a rupee and a quarter.

(3) Last year chainmen were paid at the rate of Rs. 8 a month. This year when they came in they naturally expected to get the same rate. At the time of their appointment nothing was settled, but when their work was over, some got eight rupees while the rest had to be content with Rs. 7 only. And even for this they had to wait twenty or twenty-five days.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 19th, 1904.

57. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th July republishes a paragraph from the *Swadesi* [Barisal] to the effect that there are secret resorts of gangs of dacoits scattered all over the Backergunge district. These dacoits frequently emerge from their hiding-places and plunder villages. Besides this, wild boars, etc., abound in the district. In this state of things, if the Lieutenant-Governor gives arms to the inhabitants of Barisal, his visit to the district will be remembered with gratitude. The disarmament of Barisal has done more harm than good to the people.

The question of the disarmament of Barisal.



58. The same paper writes as follows:—

The public debt of the Indian Government.

The population of India is 23 crores, and its public debt is 315 crores. It is said that the public debt of every European nation exceeds that of the Indians. But this is a matter in which there can be no fair comparison between the Indians and the people of European countries. The latter are independent and their debts are contracted for the purpose of acquiring new territories, founding colonies and promoting the interests of commerce. But the Indians, who are a subject people, have no such things to do. They are protected by British arms, are unwilling to go to foreign lands, and have neither the desire nor the opportunity to found colonies. Conquest is unnecessary for them. Peace reigns in the country. The taxes which the Indians pay are sufficient for the construction of such public works as are needed in an agricultural country, and for defending its frontier. India has borne the whole cost of her conquest by the English, the price of her thralldom. Thousands of English youths flock to the country on the pretext of governing it, but actually for the purpose of exhibiting their authority over the Indians and earning immense wealth. Nearly 175,000 Englishmen live sumptuously at the expense of the starving Indians. English merchants and manufacturers make fabulous wealth by trading with the Indians and at the cost of the Indian merchants and artisans. As a matter of fact, all possible expenses, from the cost of maintaining highly-paid civilians and the expenditure incurred by irresponsible military officers to the smallest item of State expenditure, can be met from the public revenues. Besides this, the Indians, though themselves half-fed, do not fail to support the English manufacturers in consideration of the internal peace which the former enjoy in their native country.

Why then does India bear the burden of such an enormous public debt? Within the last 100 years famine occurred 25 times in Central India and carried off more than three crores of people. In spite of this, has the Government made any large expenditure in establishing agricultural banks in the country? Indian agricultural products are gradually deteriorating in quality. But have the authorities established a high-class agricultural college in every province? Have large expenses been made in furthering the cause of high education in the country? Have proper and adequate measures been taken to improve its sanitary condition and to prevent the spread of malaria and cholera among the people by making arrangements for a proper water-supply? How many rupees have the authorities expended for rearing and improving the Indian cattle? Every Indian has the right to inquire that if enough money has not been spent in these matters, why does the country bear such a large public debt?

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 19th, 1904.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

59. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 13th July writes:—

Act XI of 1869.

To set aside a revenue sale is not as easy a matter as might be supposed. The law provides no doubt that when a mahal has been sold the Divisional Commissioner may, if he thinks that the sale was unjust and injurious to the proprietor, recommend to the Board of Revenue for setting it aside. But it is always a difficult task to prove that the sale was illegal, and if the party undertakes to prove it, he may thereby forfeit the good graces of the Commissioner. It appears therefore that the matter depends entirely upon the mercy of the Commissioner, who may or may not be moved by the tears of the petitioner.

When an appeal is preferred against the sale of a mahal, the Collector is called upon to furnish a report on the grounds set forth in the appeal, and on this report the Commissioner generally depends. But unfortunately the Collector seems to be always inclined to take a contrary view and more interested to see that the sale is not set aside than that justice is done to the aggrieved party.

If a proprietor is unsuccessful in his appeal to the Commissioner, he may, under section 33, apply to the Civil Court to set aside the sale. But it is not at all easy to prove that the sale was illegal. Can nothing be done to minimise the inconvenience and trouble that one has to undergo at present in this matter?

PALLIVASI,  
July 13th, 1904.



It is inexplicable why the assistance of pleaders is required when a revenue sale appeal comes before the Commissioner or the Revenue Board. The Commissioner takes no evidence, but depends upon the report of the Collector. The work which the Commissioner or the Board has to do in this connection is purely of a departmental character. That this is so clearly appears from the fact that the proprietor may apply to the Civil Court if he is unsuccessful in his appeal to the Commissioner. The Board can decide such cases with the help of the records before it, without requiring the proprietor or the purchaser of the properties to undergo the additional expenditure of engaging pleaders.

It is a strange thing that circulars issued by the Board play a more important part than Act XI of 1859 in regulating revenue sales.

Refund of the purchase money to the purchaser, with interest thereon, is allowed *after* the sale is set aside under section 32, and not *before* the fact is notified under section 28. How is it then that when the Commissioner is of opinion that the sale should be set aside, the proprietor is called upon to pay the arrears of revenue and the interest on the purchase money, and that if there is any irregularity in making these payments the appeal is dismissed? There is no provision in the law that an appeal may be dismissed if there is any irregularity in the payment of sums due; nor does the law empower the Commissioner to direct that no appeal will be granted unless the money is deposited beforehand. Why are then such orders issued? It is the law and not the circulars that ought to be consulted in these matters.

Under section 5 arrears of revenue may be realized. That being the case, when there is an insignificant amount falling into arrears, or when the revenue due by a co-sharer of a joint property is not paid, a proper notice should be sent to the proprietors before the whole mahal is sold by auction. We do not propose to place obstacles in the way of the realization of Government revenue. It is only proper that arrangements should be made whereby the revenue may be realized without any hitch, while the landlord may not be deprived of his zamindari by accidents or owing to trifling omissions.

Certificates for the realization of the cess are often unjustly issued through the negligence of the Road Cess Office. If a man, held liable for the cess, raises objections, the attachment of moveable property by the peon entrusted with the parwana should be stayed and time allowed for defence. To save proprietors from loss and trouble, they should be allowed to file their objections in the Subdivisional Deputy Collector's Court or to send their petition by post. By this means the proprietor can be saved from the oppression of the Road Cess Office.

PALLIVASI,  
July 13th, 1904.

#### 60. The same paper writes:—

The amendment of the Civil Procedure Code.

convenient to Government.

The litigant might be saved a great deal of expenses if only second appeals were heard by the High Court. Such an arrangement would also be

Although section 617 provides for a reference to the High Court by any other Court on a difficulty arising about the correct interpretation of any law, or of custom having the force of law, or of the purport of a deed, yet how many are the instances in which this reference is made? The parties should be given the privilege of applying to the Court for taking action under this section. The section should be given a wider scope by granting the privilege of a reference to the High Court in case of conflicting rulings making the interpretation of the law difficult.

Whenever the High Court has reason to suspect that any lower Court is doing something irregular in any case, either from bias or incapacity, the case should be at once transferred to a different Court. The provisions for transfer of cases in the present Code are insufficient.

Section 622 should be a little more amplified. It is not easy to grasp the provisions contained in this section. Its complex character should be remedied.

It is because first appeals are often heard by the High Court Judges that they are pressed for time. All first appeals should therefore be disposed of by the lower appellate Courts.



61. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th July is glad that Babu Nalin Behari Sarkar has been nominated as a member of the Bengal Legislative Council by the Calcutta Municipality. He is certainly the fittest man among the rival candidates for the membership. It is a good fortune no doubt for the rate-payers of Calcutta to have such a man in the Legislative Council at a time when the Calcutta Improvement Scheme will be discussed in it.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 15th, 1904.

The selection of Babu Nalin Behari Sarkar as a Member of the Bengal Legislative Council.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

62. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 10th July is sorry to hear that while at Agartala the Lieutenant-Governor ordered the Bara Thakur to stay away from the State till His Honour's departure therefrom. The fact is that though the late Maharaja of Agartala on his death-bed declared the Bara Thakur as the heir to the *gadi* after the present Maharaja, the latter is trying to secure the *gadi* for his eldest son. His Honour's order therefore surprised everybody. An attitude like that assumed by Sir Andrew Fraser in Agartala, is calculated to fill the minds of the people and of the native Chiefs with suspicion.

HITAVARTA,  
July 10th, 1904.

63. Referring to the expulsion of the Bara Thakur and his principal supporters from the capital of the Tippera State, the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 14th July writes as follows:—

JYOTI,  
July 14th, 1904.

This is terrible news! According to the custom of the State, the Bara Thakur is the heir to the throne. But alas for the changes of fortune! Lord Curzon has laid the axe at the root of all his high hopes, set aside the old custom, and declared that henceforth the son of the Maharaja is to be regarded as the heir.

It is said that the offence for which the Bara Thakur and his friends have been banished is this. He filed a civil suit for the maintenance of his rights over the pargana of Chakla Rosenabad, which is situated outside the limits of the State. This deed, done just on the eve of his visit to Agartala, will leave Sir Andrew Fraser's name associated with one of the blackest pages of the history of Bengal. The *sanad* which the Lieutenant-Governor presented in public *darbar* was meant to upset the old family custom as regards the appointment of a Yuvaraj, and make the Maharaja all in all in this matter; in other words, to deprive the Bara Thakur of his Yuvarajship.

Did this deposition of the Bara Thakur convert him into an enemy of the public peace? Was anybody's life risked by it? Sir Andrew Fraser is a God-fearing man. A God-fearing man is naturally troubled by many doubts when doing an unjust act. For ourselves we foresee trouble from all this.

64. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th July condemns the action of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in expatriating the Bara Thakur and his maternal uncle from Hill Tippera. The Bara Thakur is the son of the late Maharaja of Tippera by his senior queen, and is educated, intelligent, able, and amiable. It is inconceivable what harm he could have done if he had been permitted to remain at Agartala when the Lieutenant-Governor conferred the new succession *sanad* on the Maharaja of Tippera.

HITAVADI,  
July 15th, 1904.

Expatriation of the Bara Thakur of Tippera.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

65. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 12th July reports from Bankati, Arjuri post-office, that there has been no rain in that locality for the last two years. The yield of the crops have been scanty. The people are in great distress. The inhabitants under Galsi thana have obtained advances from Government to help them in their agricultural operations. The inhabitants of Ausgram have applied for similar assistance, but have not yet received any reply. There is no sign of any rain yet, although the season is so far advanced. Unless Government provides for some means of relief, the people will die of starvation.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI  
July 12th, 1904.

Distress in a village in the Burdwan district.



CHARU MIHIR,  
July 12th, 1904.

66. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th July reports that the local jute and paddy crops have suffered serious damage owing to the vagaries of the weather. In *Jaistha*, the rainfall was excessive, and since the beginning of *Asar* it has been quite scanty. The output of the *aus* crop is very small. The failure of the jute and paddy crops will seriously affect the cultivators and the middle classes. The signs all point to a famine in the near future.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
July 13th, 1904.

67. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 13th July publishes the following accounts, supplied by correspondents, of the damages that have been done by the recent heavy rains in the different parganas of the

Midnapore district:—

*Doro pargana*.—The paddy seedlings have all been destroyed. The fields have been submerged. Everyone apprehends the approach of a flood. It behoves the authorities to take immediate steps to provide for the drainage of the pargana.

*Jalamutha pargana*.—The entire pargana is under water. The standing paddy crop has been destroyed.

*Ksheput village, Ghatal*.—The Harisingpur embankment near Ghatal has given way, and the entire village has been flooded. The paddy seeds sown in the fields have been destroyed.

*Sujamutha and Arangagar parganas*.—Water 4 or 5 feet deep has accumulated in the fields. The *aus* paddy has been destroyed.

*Garbeta*.—Great harm has been done to cultivation. Maize, pumpkin, etc., the staple foods of the local Sonthals, have been destroyed.

Want of rain last year and excessive rain this year have reduced the inhabitants of the Midnapore district to an extremely miserable condition.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,  
July 16th, 1904.

68. The *Uluberia Darpan* [Uluberia] of the 16th July reports that the heavy showers which fell on the last two or three days of the month of *Asarh* have done considerable

damage to the local crops. The fields are wholly submerged. Not a sign is to be seen of the paddy plants, sown by the cultivators with so much care. The jute plants still keep their heads above the water, but as their lower parts are under the water, they also are getting rotten. Many fields will have to be left uncultivated, as there is no way of getting rid of the water standing on them. Take the case of those fields which drain into the rivers. The cultivators dare not take the risk of cutting passages to let out the water into the river for fear that at the time of flood tide the river-water might re-enter the fields and endanger the safety of the very houses. Then, again, there is the case of those lands which drain into Government canals. The gates of these canals have not yet been opened. The reason is that the cultivators have to pay a rate per every bigha of land that is so drained, and until that rate is fixed the gate cannot be opened. This rate in practice is charged to every bigha of the whole fields, irrespective of whether or not the whole of it benefits by this drainage. And there is bound to be some delay in getting the sanction of the higher authorities to the terms agreed upon. Meanwhile the crops are going to ruin, and the cultivators have abandoned themselves to despair.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 17th, 1904.

69. A correspondent writes to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th July as follows:—

Loss caused by the Damodar floods.

On the 8th July last, the Damodar flooded its banks and swept away our village of Jamalpur in thana Rajarampore. Our houses are in ruins. For three days now our lives are in such jeopardy that we expect death every moment. We do not know for what sins we are thus chastised. Our beneficent Government, which saves so many unfortunate people, is indifferent to our lot. We appealed to the Executive Engineer pointing out that the want of an embankment to protect our village might prove disastrous to us. We were already half-starved, and now we lose our homes and our live-stock. We do not know what more is in store for us. Has Government no duty to discharge in this matter?

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 23rd July 1904.

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